



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 8, 1992

Mr. Todd K. Brown
Executive Director
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission
Southfield Building
4000 South IH-35
Austin, Texas 78704

OR92-379

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission asks whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, V.T.C.S. article 6252-17a. Your request was assigned ID # 16058.

The Commission has received several requests from Harold R. Barker for inter alia: information concerning his workers' compensation claim; and copies of various statutes and rules.¹

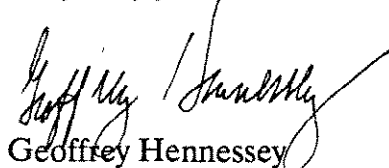
Open Records Act section 3(a) declares that all information in the possession of a governmental body is public information, unless the information meets one of the express exceptions of the Act. Open Records Act section 3(a)(1) excepts from required public disclosure "information deemed confidential by law, either Constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act all information in or derived from a claim file is deemed confidential. V.T.C.S. art. 8308-2.31(a). The Workers' Compensation Act expressly grants the claimant a right of access to the claim file. V.T.C.S. art. 8308-2.31(d)(1). Therefore, the requestor's right of access to review his claim file is governed by the Workers' Compensation Act, rather than the Open Records Act. We also agree that this right is satisfied by allowing the claimant to examine the file and designate which documents the claimant wants copied.

¹The requestor has also requested information concerning: the reimbursement of Houston General Insurance Company by the Subsequent Injury Fund; and the Commissioner's Investigation of Houston General Insurance Company. The Commission states that it has no documents meeting these descriptions.

The requestor has also requested that the Commission furnish copies of various laws, statutes, and rules of a general description. The Commission is not required to perform legal research for a requester. *See* Open Records Decision No. 563 (1990).

Because prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling please refer to OR92-379.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Hennessey', is written over the typed name.

Geoffrey Hennessey
Assistant Attorney General
Opinions Committee

GH/lmm

Ref.: ID# 16058

ID# 16245

ID# 16417

cc: Mr. Harold R. Barker
8656 Park Lane # 2008
Dallas, Texas 75231